



Bloomington-Normal Bridge Newsletter

Volume 18 Number 11 – November, 2016

14 pages



November Events

Monday Morning Duplicate games at the First Christian Church located at Jefferson and Lee streets near downtown Bloomington starting at 11:45AM:

November 7 – charity club championship open pairs

November 14 – open pairs

November 21 – charity club championship open pairs

November 28 – GNT fund raiser open pairs

Contact Betty Capodice at 309-827-3318 for information or to arrange for a partner.

Mike's Bridge Club schedule:

Wednesday, November 2, 1:15PM – STaC 99ers & NLMers only & open pairs – Centennial Christian

Wednesday, November 2, 6:15PM – Special STaC open pairs – Community Room – North Meadow Village

Thursday, November 3, 11:45AM – STaC open pairs – First Christian

Thursday, November 3, 6:15PM – Special STaC open pairs – First Christian

Saturday, November 5, 11:45AM – STaC open pairs – First Christian

Sunday, November 6, 1:15PM – Special STaC open pairs – Community Room – North Meadow Village

Monday, November 7, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Tuesday, November 8, 12:30PM – invitation only pairs – Clinton Country Club

Wednesday, November 9, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, November 10, 11:45AM – charity club championship open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, November 12, 11:45AM – charity club championship open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, November 14, 6:15PM – 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, November 16, 1:15PM - 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, November 17, 11:45AM – Inter club championship open pairs – Centennial Christian

Saturday, November 19, 11:45AM – charity club championship open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, November 21, 6:15PM - 99ers only pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, November 23, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Thursday, November 24 – NO GAME – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Saturday, November 26, 11:45AM – GNT fund raiser open pairs – Centennial Christian

Monday, November 28, 6:15PM - 99ers only pairs and open pairs – First Christian

Wednesday, November 30, 1:15PM – 99ers & NLMers only pairs – Centennial Christian

Contact Mike Tomlianovich at 309-825-5823 for information or to arrange for a partner. All game results are posted online: <http://clubresults.acbl.org/>

All games sanctioned by the American Contract Bridge League.

Announcement: Effective 4/1/2012, all ACBL-sanctioned bridge games held in Bloomington-Normal are fragrance free. Please be respectful of those who are fragrance intolerant. Thank you!





The Bloomington-Normal "Top 25" Masterpoint holders

As of 10/6/2016 – residents of Bloomington-Normal only
paid up ACBL members only



| | | |
|-----|----------|--------------------|
| 1 | 3,703.79 | Betty Capodice |
| 2 | 3,492.65 | Steve Babin |
| 3 | 2,682.83 | Zack Freehill |
| *** | 2,557.18 | Laura Addison |
| 4 | 2,481.99 | Eunice Patton |
| 5 | 2,119.39 | Mike Tomlianovich |
| 6 | 1,861.00 | Cindy Moore |
| 7 | 1,834.73 | JoAnn Schroeder |
| *** | 1,735.61 | Steve Hawthorne |
| 8 | 1,733.39 | Ann Schuyler |
| 9 | 1,605.31 | Dewey Gronau |
| *** | 1,398.35 | Sharad Chitgopekar |
| 10 | 1,394.04 | Lori Moore |
| *** | 1,320.43 | Ed Lombard |
| 11 | 1,307.37 | Ron Emmett |
| 12 | 1,296.03 | Charlie Morton |
| 13 | 1,263.31 | Stan Gutzman |
| 14 | 1,198.59 | Jeanne Strand |
| 15 | 1,145.24 | Ivey Weaver |
| *** | 1,091.94 | Marian Edmunds |
| 16 | 1,045.36 | Jean Barnett |
| 17 | 985.49 | Randall Motchan |
| *** | 835.37 | Glen Beaman |
| 18 | 842.93 | Jeff Furler |
| 19 | 794.85 | Henrietta Crain |
| *** | 792.95 | Don Strand |
| *** | 780.34 | Jack Kessler |
| 20 | 767.92 | Steve Wulfers |
| 21 | 766.07 | Dennis Moll |
| *** | 741.06 | Pearl Harris |
| 22 | 710.68 | Dave Freehill |
| 23 | 699.35 | Peg Deutsch |
| 24 | 640.48 | Joyce Clay |
| *** | 610.73 | Martin Compton |
| 25 | 589.52 | Stevie Joslin |
| *** | | deceased |

Other players:

| | | |
|-----|-----------|-----------------------------|
| *** | 12,741.55 | Dick Benson-LeRoy |
| | 12,134.96 | Chris Benson-LeRoy |
| | 4,828.27 | John Seng-Champaign |
| | 4,703.48 | Larry Matheny-Colorado |
| *** | 4,073.45 | Alan Wienman-Morton |
| | 4,109.41 | Ron Sholes-Springfield |
| | 4,025.08 | Phyllis Rahn-Dunlap |
| | 3,954.53 | Christine Carroll-Champaign |
| | 3,821.64 | Kish Devaraj-Georgia |
| | 2,931.31 | Paul Lindauer-Varna |
| | 2,628.44 | Carole Sholes-Springfield |
| | 2,596.32 | Mary Allen-Peoria |
| | 2,543.64 | Ray Russ-Henry |
| | 2,534.82 | Pat Carrington-Champaign |
| | 2,523.78 | Georgia Heth-Morton |
| | 2,447.58 | Gail Moon-Tennessee |
| | 2,375.73 | Margaret Hansell-Champaign |
| | 2,360.84 | Terry Goodykoontz-Champaign |
| | 1,955.41 | Hank Hoffman-East Peoria |
| | 1,811.85 | Tim Cull-Arizona |
| | 1,779.05 | John Maloney-Champaign |
| *** | 1,776.22 | John Burdon |
| | 1,728.32 | Marilyn Stickel-Lacon |
| | 1,567.10 | Dennis Fitton-Urbana |
| | 1,533.77 | Bobbie Straker-Pekin |
| | 1,280.61 | Jim Moon-Tennessee |
| | 1,036.79 | Chuck Langley-Mechanicsburg |
| | 992.53 | Bill Bulfer-East Peoria |
| | 980.70 | Phil Kenney-Eureka |
| *** | 916.41 | Floyd Sherry-Eureka |
| | 796.29 | Doug Steele-Seymour |
| | 609.76 | Wes Seitz-Champaign |



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#1 -

It is important to try to visualize the play of the hand. Just knowing what might happen can mean the difference between success and failure.

Scoring: IMPs (Teams)

| | | | | | |
|---------|------------|------|-------|------|-----------|
| #16-14 | ♠ J8 | West | North | East | South |
| Vul E/W | ♥ J10965 | 1♦ | Pass | 2♦ | 4♠ |
| | ♦ Q873 | Pass | Pass | Pass | |
| | ♣ 87 | | | | |
| ♠ K73 | | | | | ♠ 2 |
| ♥ A73 | | | | | ♥ 84 |
| ♦ K9542 | | | | | ♦ AJ106 |
| ♣ K9 | | | | | ♣ QJ10643 |
| | | | | | |
| | ♠ AQ109654 | | | | |
| | ♥ KQ2 | | | | |
| | ♦ | | | | |
| | ♣ A52 | | | | |

BIDDING: After East raised diamonds, South leaped boldly to the spade game.

Play: West led a low diamond to East's ten and declarer trumped. Declarer counted four possible losers: 1 spade, 1 heart, and two clubs. The auction placed most of the missing honors in the West hand so declarer decided against a spade finesse. His plan was to ruff a club in dummy so at trick two he led a low club. East won with the ten and shifted to the eight of hearts. Declarer won with the king as West ducked. Following his plan declarer continued with the ace of clubs but stopped when the king was played on his left. Fearing that West could ruff the third spade with the trump king and give his partner a heart ruff, declarer next cashed the ace of spades. Now he led his third club and West did ruff with the king. Next came the ace and another heart but with no trumps. East could only discard a club and declarer claimed ten tricks.

While it was impossible to know that East held only one trump, it cost nothing to play the ace of spades before leading the third club. If he did not, he would have failed in his contract.

#2 -

The Vienna coup is an unblocking play made in preparation for a squeeze. The history of this play goes back to the days of the game of Whist in the 1860's.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

| | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|------|-------|------|-------|
| #16-15 | ♠ KQJ82 | | West | North | East | South |
| | ♥ AJ1097 | | | 1♠ | Pass | 2♦ |
| Vul E/W | ♦ Q4 | | - | 2♥ | Pass | 2♠ |
| | ♣ 8 | | Pass | 3♥ | Pass | 4NT |
| ♠ 753 | | ♠ 104 | Pass | 5♣ | Pass | 5NT |
| ♥ K532 | | ♥ 6 | Pass | 6♣ | Pass | 6NT |
| ♦ K8 | | ♦ 107532 | Pass | Pass | Pass | |
| ♣ K952 | | ♣ J10643 | Pass | Pass | Pass | |
| | ♠ A96 | | | | | |
| | ♥ Q84 | | | | | |
| | ♦ AJ96 | | | | | |
| | ♣ AQ7 | | | | | |

BIDDING: As soon as North bid one spade, South was interested in slam. His two diamond response was game forcing and North continued to show his length in the majors. After agreeing spades as the trump suit, South employed Roman Keycard Blackwood. The five spade response showed two keycards (4 aces + king of spades) and the queen of spades. The five notrump bid asked for kings and North denied holding another. South next bid six notrump to protect his minor suit holdings from the opening lead and try for the best score.

Play: Holding three kings, West led a safe spade. Declarer won the ace and quickly saw the heart finesse was needed. At trick two, declarer led the eight of hearts. After this won, he next led the queen of hearts. A third heart to dummy's ten gave him 12 tricks: 5 spades, 5 hearts, 1 diamond, and 1 club. Now he looked for the overtrick. He could take a finesse playing East for one of the minor suit kings but the passive spade lead made declarer think West was protecting both kings. So, he cashed the ace of diamonds (the Vienna Coup) and proceeded to cash his major suit winners. Here was the ending as declarer played dummy's last spade winner:



Declarer discarded the diamond from his hand and West discarded his nine of clubs. Staying with his plan, declarer next led a club to the ace and had the overtrick. If the ace of diamonds had not been cashed early, West could keep an extra card and the squeeze would not have worked. Check it out.

#3 –

The scoring method used in Pairs games rewards the largest plus scores. This, of course, means overtricks are more important than they are at other forms of scoring.

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

| | | | | | |
|---------|--|------|-------|------|-------|
| #16-16 | ♠ AK104 | West | North | East | South |
| | ♥ J85 | - | - | Pass | 1 ♥ |
| Vul E/W | ♦ Q963 | Pass | 1 ♠ | Pass | 3 ♥ |
| | ♣ J4 | Pass | 4 ♥ | Pass | Pass |
| ♠ Q96 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div> | Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |
| ♥ Q3 | | Pass | | | |
| ♦ 752 | | | | | |
| ♣ AQ952 | | | | | |
| | ♠ J32 | | | | |
| | ♥ 92 | | | | |
| | ♦ 1084 | | | | |
| | ♣ K8763 | | | | |
| | ♠ 875 | | | | |
| | ♥ AK10764 | | | | |
| | ♦ AKJ | | | | |
| | ♣ 10 | | | | |

BIDDING: North-South had a routine auction to game.

Play: Without an attractive lead, West started with a low diamond. Declarer won in his hand and followed with the AK of hearts. Once the trumps behaved, declarer saw only a possible spade loser and another in clubs. One of the losers could be discarded on the queen of diamonds but declarer had a better plan. He played three rounds of diamonds and then went to dummy with a spade. On the good diamond he discarded a spade. Next, he played king of spades and ruffed the third round. When the suit divided 3-3, he was able to return to dummy with a trump and discard his club loser on the good spade.

Making all thirteen tricks resulted in a very good score. Most N/S pairs only captured twelve tricks when they simply discarded a club on the queen of diamonds and conceded a spade. Matchpoint bridge is different and must be played with the scoring method in mind.

The scoring method used in Pairs events rewards overtricks but should you risk the contract in search of these?

Scoring: Matchpoints (Pairs)

| | | | | | |
|----------|--|------|-------|------|-------|
| #16-17 | ♠ A9 | West | North | East | South |
| Vul E/W | ♥ Q8 | - | 1♦ | Pass | 1♥ |
| | ♦ AQ974 | Pass | 1NT | Pass | 4♥ |
| | ♣ J976 | Pass | Pass | Pass | |
| ♠ 108653 | <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 40px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div> | | | | |
| ♥ 32 | | | | | |
| ♦ 102 | | | | | |
| ♣ AQ43 | | | | | |
| | ♠ KJ42 | | | | |
| | ♥ 105 | | | | |
| | ♦ KJ865 | | | | |
| | ♣ 85 | | | | |
| | ♠ Q7 | | | | |
| | ♥ AKJ9764 | | | | |
| | ♦ 3 | | | | |
| | ♣ K102 | | | | |

BIDDING: North-South had a routine auction to game.

Play: West led a low spade and declarer stopped to analyze the hand. He saw only three possible losers: 1 spade and 2 clubs. But, he also realized there was a danger of a club ruff to defeat the contract. In a team game or at Rubber Bridge, the best play is to rise with the ace of spades, draw trumps, and then take the club finesse in search of an overtrick. West will win the queen but the contract is safe.

However, in a Matchpoint game the spade finesse offers a good chance for an overtrick. Playing low would only be fatal if East wins the king and obtains a club ruff. That means the spade king must be with East, the ace and queen of clubs be in the West hand, and East be short in clubs. The odds against all of these happening make the finesse a good risk so a strong Matchpoints player would go down on this hand.

You must keep the scoring method in mind when you decide how to play the hand.

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Remember: All Bloomington-Normal duplicate events adhere to the ACBL's zero tolerance for unacceptable behavior. Do NOT let this person's conduct rub off on you!!



**Bloomington-Normal 70% club
Year 2016 only
Sponsored by: TBA**

| | | |
|------------------|---------------|---|
| 2016/9/12 | 72.22% | JoAnn Schroeder & Ray Dostal |
| 2016/9/1 | 70.83% | Jerry Oswald & Steve Babin |
| 2016/8/31 | 70.63% | Sallie Boge & Bob Ragland(NLMers) |
| 2016/8/29 | 72.92% | Mary Lou Gold & Gaye Hoselton(99ers) |
| 2016/8/23 | 73.33% | Joni Newburg & Valerie Crutchfield(Clinton invitational) |
| 2016/8/15 | 71.35% | Tom Teeters & Steve Wulfers |
| 2016/8/6 | 71.33% | Christine Carroll & Wes Seitz |
| 2016/8/4 | 70.14% | Dennis Moll & Zach Freehill |
| 2016/7/27 | 70.95% | Kay Marvin & Linda Odette(NLMers) |
| 2016/6/28 | 73.33% | Joni Newburg & Lois Johnson(Clinton invitational) |
| 2016/3/16 | 70.00% | Bev Branning & John Ford(NLMers) |
| 2016/3/14 | 71.11% | Larry Ziegler & Rick Kern(99ers) |
| 2016/3/14 | 70.56% | Mike Gross & Carroll Kinnaman(99ers) |
| 2016/2/10 | 72.02% | Kay Marvin & Linda Odette(NLMers) |
| 2016/2/3 | 71.67% | Lynn Steffen & Mary Houska(NLMers) |
| 2016/1/12 | 70.14% | Marilyn & Darryl Bremner(Clinton invitational) |

BRIDGE BITES

from: The American Contract Bridge League

By: Brian Gunnell



#121 – MR & MRS SMITH

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| | ♠ QJ3 ♥ 3 ♦ T4 ♣ AKJT982 | |
| ♠ T96 ♥ 987 ♦ Q765 ♣ 543 | <i>North</i> Mrs Mr Smith Declarer | ♠ 852 ♥ AQT654 ♦ KJ32 ♣ |
| | ♠ AK74 ♥ KJ2 ♦ A98 ♣ Q76 | |

Both Vulnerable

| | <i>South</i> | <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> |
|------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1NT | Pass | 3NT | Pass | |
| Pass | Pass | | | |

Playing bridge is a great activity to enjoy with one's spouse. However, some bridge Clubs have a Mr. and Mrs. Smith in their ranks, and perhaps these couples are temperamentally better suited to chess or backgammon.

At a Club duplicate the entire N-S field was having a bad day and missed the lay-down slam. Instead, they played in 3NT

making the obvious 12 tricks, except at the table where a tricky Declarer scored an extra trick from an unlikely source.

Mrs. Smith knew that, after this auction, the lead of a major suit is usually called for. The ♠T was the obvious choice and Declarer won that with Dummy's Queen. Declarer now rattled off Dummy's Clubs, throwing from his hand two Diamonds, the ♥J and the ♥K (cunningly keeping the Heart Two!).

Next, Declarer cashed Spades and the defense lapsed into auto-pilot mode. Declarer seemed to be out of Hearts and so they both felt compelled to hang on to Diamonds. On the last Spade, Mr. Smith, who by now was down to ♥A and ♦KJ, tossed away the ♥A, wondering why Declarer was wasting time playing out the hand. At Trick 12, Declarer cashed the ♦A, and Mr. Smith leaned forward to claim Trick 13 with his ♦K. But Declarer rather took the wind out of Mr. Smith's sails by (somewhat mischievously) announcing "The board's good". And so it was, as the sneaky Heart Two was led to Dummy's Three for the 13th trick.

In the post mortem the Smiths exchanged ideas:

"Why didn't you"

"*Did you really think I*"

"keep a Heart? No reason"

"*pitched Nine-Eight-Seven*"

"to keep the"

"*and kept the Two?*"

"Diamond Queen unless"

"*I wish you would*"

"you were planning"

"*pay attention*"

"to win it at Trick 14"

#122 – IMPROVING THE ODDS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | ♠ KJ ♥ AQ83 ♦ 872 ♣ AT93 | |
| ♠ Q9653 ♥ 742 ♦ J4 ♣ Q82 | <i>North</i> | ♠ AT74 ♥ J ♦ AQT93 ♣ J64 |
| | <i>West East Declarer</i> | |
| | ♠ 82 ♥ KT965 ♦ K65 ♣ K75 | |

Both Vulnerable

| <i>South</i> | <i>West</i> | <i>North</i> | <i>East</i> |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | | | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | 1♣ | 1♦ |
| 1♥ | 1♠ | 2♥ | 2♠ |
| 3♥ | Pass | Pass | Pass |

E-W appear well-matched, because East bids most conservatively (he didn't open and he didn't compete to 3♠) whereas West seems to bid a lot (witness his 1♠ call).

The ♦J opening lead was taken by East's Ace, and the ♦Q played to Declarer's King. Trumps were drawn in three rounds, and with a Club and a Diamond still to be lost, Declarer concluded that a successful Spade guess was required to bring this one home. She'd just finished reading Lawrence's "Counting at Bridge", so she put her new-found technique to work. East had shown up with ♦AQ and ♥J, added to which he might also have a Club honor. With all that, *and* the ♠A, surely East would have opened the bidding instead of passing in first seat. So, with a high degree of confidence, she led a Spade to the King and East's surprising Ace. Down one.

It was unfortunate that Declarer's bedtime reading had not been "End-Plays for the Improving Player". In that case, after drawing trumps, she would have cashed the ♠K and led a Club to the Ten and East's Jack. East could cash the ♦T, but then had no safe exit ... a Spade return would spare Declarer the guess ... and a Club return would allow Declarer to pitch a Spade on the fourth round of Clubs. Making 9 tricks.

It's true that playing on Clubs was not a sure thing. West might have held ♣QJx, in which case he would split his honors and win the third round of the suit. Now West will lead a low Spade and Declarer can revert to her counting activities (without a happy ending, as it happens).

#123 – FIRST THINGS FIRST

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| | ♠ 7 ♥ T743 ♦ AKT9632 ♣ 6 | |
| ♠ QT843 ♥ 2 ♦ Q4 ♣ A7432 | North West East Declarer | ♠ A965 ♥ J986 ♦ 875 ♣ 95 |
| | ♠ KJ2 ♥ AKQ5 ♦ J ♣ KQJT8 | |

E-W Vulnerable

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| | | 3♦ | Pass |
| 3NT | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Some players don't approve of preemptive bids when holding a 4-card major, pointing out that it risks missing (in this case) a 4-4 Heart fit. Others will say that North's so-called Heart suit is pitifully weak, and surely that long, strong minor needs to be bid.

On the actual deal, North's 3♦ preempt got N-S to a dubious 3NT when 4♥ was indeed a superior contract. Against 3NT, the opening lead was a Spade to East's Ace, then a Spade to Declarer's Jack and West's Queen, followed by a third Spade. On the second and third Spades, Dummy pitched a Club and a Diamond (a Heart could not be spared as the 4th Heart is a potential entry).

After winning the third Spade trick, how would *you* play the Diamond suit? Would you finesse against the Queen, or would you play for the drop? When the hand was played, our Declarer knew that with an 8-card fit, the Diamond finesse was the percentage play, so he successfully ran the Jack. That held, but the bad news was that Hearts were 4-1, so Dummy had no entry and the good Diamonds were stranded.

Declarer goofed. He should have cashed two high Hearts first ... if that suit split 3-2 then he could take the Diamond finesse, the most likely way to bring in the suit ... but when Hearts were 4-1, the lack of Dummy entries meant that he must rely on the singleton or doubleton ♦Q to make his contract. That would have been 10 tricks, just like those who declared the superior 4♥ contract. Does this deal settle the debate about preempting with a 4-card major? Not at all, it merely tells us that rotten contracts sometimes make, especially when played correctly.

#124 – A “FREE” FINESSE

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| | ♠ AJT ♥ A6543 ♦ AK3 ♣ K7 | |
| ♠ 9732 ♥ KJ87 ♦ J6 ♣ 653 | North West East Declarer | ♠ Q854 ♥ Q2 ♦ QT54 ♣ A84 |
| | ♠ K6 ♥ T9 ♦ 9872 ♣ QJT92 | |

E-W Vulnerable

| South | West | North | East |
|-------|------|-------|------|
| | | 1♥ | Pass |
| 1NT | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

When West led a Spade against 3NT, she offered a “free finesse”, allowing Declarer to score three Spade tricks without having to guess which defender held the Queen. But, in actual fact, that finesse came with a hefty price tag.

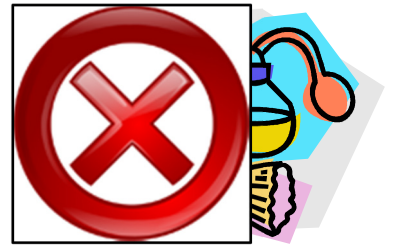
“How kind of West to lead a Spade”, thought Declarer as he played Dummy’s Jack, covered by the Queen and the King.

Having ensured three Spade tricks, Declarer then paused to look at the whole hand. But it was a bit late for that, wasn’t it?

At this point, Declarer could count three Spades, one Heart, and two Diamonds, which got him up to six, so he looked to the Club suit to make up the shortfall, leading the ♣K at Trick 2. But East didn’t have to be a genius to duck this, killing Declarer’s hopes in that suit. His last hope was a 3-3 Heart break, but that failed too, and Declarer (deservedly) went down in a cold contract.

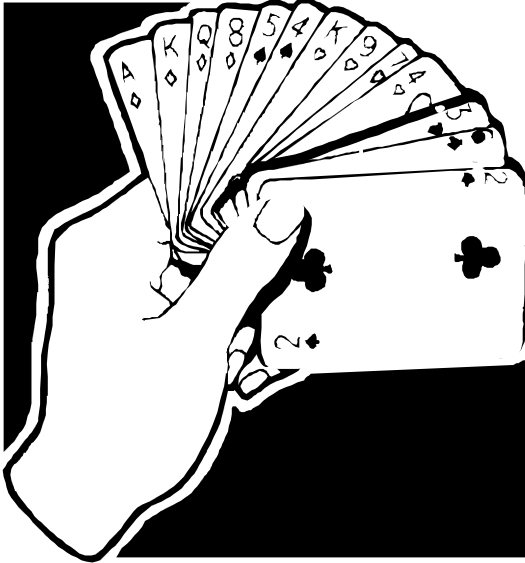
Declarer would have made his contract if he had given up his free finesse in exchange for setting up the Club suit. He wins the opening lead with Dummy’s Ace (goodbye, third Spade trick), and leads the ♣K (hello, second, third and fourth Club tricks, as the ♠K provides an entry to Declarer’s hand). Nine easy tricks for those Declarers who paused to think at Trick 1.

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Upcoming tournaments:



NAP Finals District 8 GNT/NAP

Nov 13, 2016

Fluid Event Center

601 N. Country Fair Drive, Champaign, IL 61821

PH: 217-359-6960

